<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a user to obtain fee-based content over a network, comprising:

setting user-defined parameters specified by the user to accept all fees below a predetermined amount<u>, the predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees</u>;

<u>receiving a selection</u> ~~displaying a first portion~~ of content ~~selected~~ by the user, at a user location, the content being from a content provider location;

determining whether <u>the</u> ~~a second portion of~~ content requires payment of a fee by the user;

<u>comparing the fee for the selected content to the predetermined amount;</u>

displaying the ~~second portion of~~ <u>selected</u> content to the user when the fee for the ~~second portion of~~ <u>selected</u> content is <u>less than the predetermined amount</u> ~~accepted based on the user-defined parameters~~; and

accumulating a plurality of fees incurred by the user at a third party provider location,

wherein the user-defined parameters are not used to perform a search for <u>the</u> content.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting the user for acceptance of the fee when the fee for the selected ~~second portion of~~ content exceeds the predetermined amount.

3.   (Currently Amended) A system that enables a user to obtain fee-based content from a remote location, comprising:

a client information appliance, adapted to receive user-defined parameters specified by the user and relating to acceptance of fees, <u>including a predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees,</u> the client information appliance being adapted to retrieve content from the remote location and display that content to the user at the client information appliance, in response to the content being selected, wherein the user-defined parameters are not used to perform a search for content;

a content provider appliance, adapted to provide content to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance retrieves a portion of content from a remote location and determines whether a fee for additional content exceeds <u>the</u> [[a]] predetermined amount, based on the user-defined parameters, and if it is determined that the <u>fee for the</u> additional contents does not exceed the predetermined amount, the additional content is retrieved; and

a payment appliance, associated with a third party, the payment appliance adapted to accumulate fees incurred by the user and to remit payment to the content provider.

4.   (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein if the fee for the additional content exceeds the predetermined amount, the user is prompted to accept the fee, and if the user accepts, the additional content is retrieved.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method for accessing content over a network, comprising:

accessing, through the network, selected content that requires a fee to be accessed, based on at least one predefined user-preference, specified by a user, pre-authorizing payment for content requiring a fee, and without obtaining further ~~authorization~~ user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection prior to the accessing, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference is not used to perform a search for the content; and

accumulating fees to account for all those incurred for accessing each selected content accessed in the accessing,

wherein the selecting of the content is not dependent on the at least one predefined user-preference.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising making payment to a third party provider to pay for at least some of the fees accumulated in the accumulating.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising integrating the at least one predefined user-preference on a browser application.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising verifying, by a third party provider, the fees incurred.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of Clam 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for any content from any available content provider, and the accessing accesses selected content from any available selected content provider.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for no more than a particular quantity of fees within a particular time period.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for individual fees that do not exceed a particular individual fee threshold.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for accumulated fees that do not exceed a particular accumulated fee threshold.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising collecting content from a plurality of content providers as a function of HTML or other tags of each content provider website.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for content from only predetermined content providers.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising presenting content from a content provider when an individual fee does not exceed an individual fee threshold and an accumulated fee does not exceed an accumulated fee threshold, without prompting a user.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising rejecting content from a content provider based on the type of content.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

    presenting a prompt requesting further authorization when a fee exceeds a pre-authorized maximum amount specified by the at least one predefined user-preference.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the network is the Internet.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising inputting a user-defined password prior to requesting content over the network.

20.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising generating an invoice as a function of fees incurred by a user.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party provider is an Internet Service Provider.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party provider is a financial institution.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party provider is a credit card company.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising transmitting a message from the third party provider to a user when accumulated fees exceed a predetermined amount.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

storing user account information at a remote location;

storing the at least one predefined user-preference at the remote location; and

enabling a user to access the user account information and at least one predefined user-preference from the remote location.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising providing a connection from a user terminal to a third party provider terminal to enable a user to access their account from a terminal using a browser.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising prompting a user to approve a fee for content that has not been pre-authorized.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising establishing a user credit account with a third party provider in which the accumulated fees are paid to the third party provider on a periodic basis.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising establishing a user debit account with a third party provider in which the accumulated fees are deducted from a balance paid in advance to the third party provider.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

paying fees to a content provider in a first currency; and

paying fees to a third party provider in a second currency.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party provider is another user.

32.   (Original) The method of Claim 29, further comprising generating a signal indicative of a user account balance being less than a predetermined amount.

33.   (Currently Amended)   A system that enables a user to access fee-based content from a remote location, comprising:

a client information appliance, adapted to receive user-defined settings, specified by the user regarding acceptance of fees, the client information appliance adapted to retrieve content to the user from the remote location, in response to the content being selected by the user, and wherein the user-defined settings are not used to perform a search for content;

a content provider appliance adapted to provide content to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance determines whether retrieved content requires payment of a fee and if so, determines whether the content has been pre-approved by the user-defined settings, and if the content has been pre-approved it is accepted without further ~~authorization by the~~ user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection; and

a payment appliance adapted to accumulate fees incurred by the user and to remit payment to the content provider based on the accumulated fees.

34.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user makes periodic payments to a third party.

35.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, further comprising an Internet browser, that is integrated with the user-defined settings.

36.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein a third party verifies the fees incurred by the user.

37.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, further comprising a memory medium that stores the user-defined settings that enables the user to automatically accept authorized fees.

38.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user-defined settings accept a preselected number of fees within a preselected period of time.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user-defined settings accept fees from selected content providers without prompting the user.

40.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance rejects content having a fee that exceeds a predetermined amount.

41.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance rejects content when an accumulated fee exceeds a predetermined accumulated fee amount.

42.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein content is collected from a plurality of content providers as a function of HTML or other tags of each content provider website.

43.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance generates a prompt, that is displayed to the user, prior to acceptance of a fee that exceeds a predetermined threshold and the user determines whether the content is accessed.

44.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the information appliance rejects content from a content provider based on the type of content.

45.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user inputs a password in order to accept the fee associated with particular content.

46.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the network is the Internet.

47. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user provides the payment appliance with account information, which the payment appliance utilizes to collect payment for a user's accumulated fees.

48. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user pre-pays a pre-selected amount to the third party.

49. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance generates a signal indicative of a user account balance being less than a predetermined amount, and the client information appliance displays the signal.

50. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance generates an invoice for each user appliance and transmits the invoice to an address designated by the user appliance.

51. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is associated with a financial institution.

52. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is a client information appliance.

53. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is associated with an Internet Service Provider.

54.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein a user is able to access their user-account from a remote information appliance.

55.   (Cancelled).

56.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein user account information is stored at the payment appliance.

57.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance remits payment to the content provider in a first currency and the user remits payment to the third party in a second currency.

58.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing payment of royalties for fee-based content over a network, comprising:

setting user-defined parameters specified by a user that pre-authorize retrieval of content data requiring a fee to be retrieved, so that no further authorization user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection is required;

accepting selection, by the user, of content data desired to be retrieved from a content [[provider,;]] provider;

retrieving a first portion of selected content data at a user location, the first portion of the selected content data provided without a fee;

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determining whether a second portion of the selected content data is desired, the second portion of the selected content data having an associated fee,

wherein when the second portion of the selected content data is accepted based on the user-defined parameters, the associated fee is calculated, a portion of which includes a royalty;

paying the royalty portion of the fee; and

paying a content portion of the fee to the content provider,

wherein the user-defined parameters are not used to perform a search for content.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, further comprising:

accumulating a plurality of royalty fees;

accumulating a plurality of content fees; and

transmitting payment to a third party provider for accumulated royalty fees and accumulated content fees.

60. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently Amended) A system for providing payment of royalties, comprising:

a client information appliance, adapted to accept a user-specified command specifying a selection of content to be retrieved, and to retrieve the content from a remote location, the client information appliance also being adapted to store user-defined

parameters, specified by the user, that pre-authorize retrieval of content requiring a fee to be retrieved, so that no further ~~authorization~~ user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection is required, and wherein the user-defined parameters are not used to perform a search for content;

a content provider appliance, adapted to provide content from a content provider to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance retrieves ~~a portion of~~ the content from a remote location and ~~determines whether additional content is desired and if so accepts the additional content~~ based on the user-defined parameters; and

a payment appliance, adapted to accumulate fees incurred by the user and to remit payment to the content provider and to remit a royalty payment.

62.-65. (Cancelled).

66.   (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access content data and purchase items and/or services over a network, comprising:

a client information appliance adapted to receive inputs from the user that pre-authorize a first amount for payment of content data, and receive inputs from the user that pre-authorize a second amount for payment of items and/or services, the client information appliance adapted to retrieve selected content data from a remote location and determine a fee associated with the content and items and/or services, the first and second amounts each defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees,

wherein the inputs received from the user pre-authorizing the first and second amounts are not used to perform a search for content, and if the fee for the selected content does not exceed the pre-authorized first amount, the content is displayed at the client information appliance without prompting the user and

wherein the user selects items and/or services, and if the fee for selected items and/or services does not exceed the pre-authorized second amount, the items and/or services are purchased without prompting the user <u>for input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection</u>;

a payment appliance associated with a third party, that accumulates fees associated with content and items and/or services incurred by the user and remits payment to a provider of the content and items and/or services.

67.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 66, wherein the user pays the third party provider on a periodic basis.

68.   (Previous Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising predefining the at least one user-preference to pre-authorize payment for content requiring a fee.

69.   (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program for causing a computer to perform a method of enabling a user to obtain fee-based content over a network, said control program comprising

code for setting user-defined parameters, specified by the user, to accept all fees below a predetermined amount, the predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees;

code for receiving a selection ~~displaying a first portion~~ of content ~~selected~~ by the user, at a user location, the content being from a content provider location;

code for determining whether ~~a second portion of~~ the content requires payment of a fee by the user;

code for comparing the fee for the selected content to the predetermined amount;

code for presenting the ~~second portion of~~ content to the user when the fee for the ~~second portion of~~ content is less than the predetermined amount ~~accepted based on the user-defined parameters~~; and

code for accumulating a plurality of fees incurred by the user at a third party provider location,

wherein the user-defined parameters are not used to perform a search for content.

70.   (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program for causing a computer to perform a method for accessing content over a network, said control program comprising:

code for accessing, through the network, selected content that requires a fee to be accessed, based on at least one predefined user-preference, specified by a user, pre-

authorizing payment for content requiring a fee, and without further ~~authorization by the~~

user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection prior to the

accessing; and

code for accumulating fees to account for all those incurred for accessing

each selected content accessed in the accessing,

wherein the at least one predefined user-preference is not used to perform a

search for the content.

71.   (Currently Amended) A method for interacting with a network,

comprising the steps of:

accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content

that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network; and

accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be

accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the

electronic pre-authorization without further user input specifying a payment authorization

or a payment method selection,

[[,]] wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used to perform a search

for electronic content.

72.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the third

party provider pays the content provider the amount of the fees incurred by the user and the

user makes payment to the third party provider on a periodic basis.

73.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 3, wherein the user pays the third party provider on a periodic basis.

74.   (Previously Presented) A system for interacting with a network, the system comprising:

means for accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network; and

means for accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the electronic pre-authorization without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection,

wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used to perform a search for electronic content.

75.   (Previously Presented) A memory medium storing a control program for causing a computer to perform method for interacting with a network, said control program comprising:

code for accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network; and

code for accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the electronic pre-authorization without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection,

wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used to perform a search for electronic content.